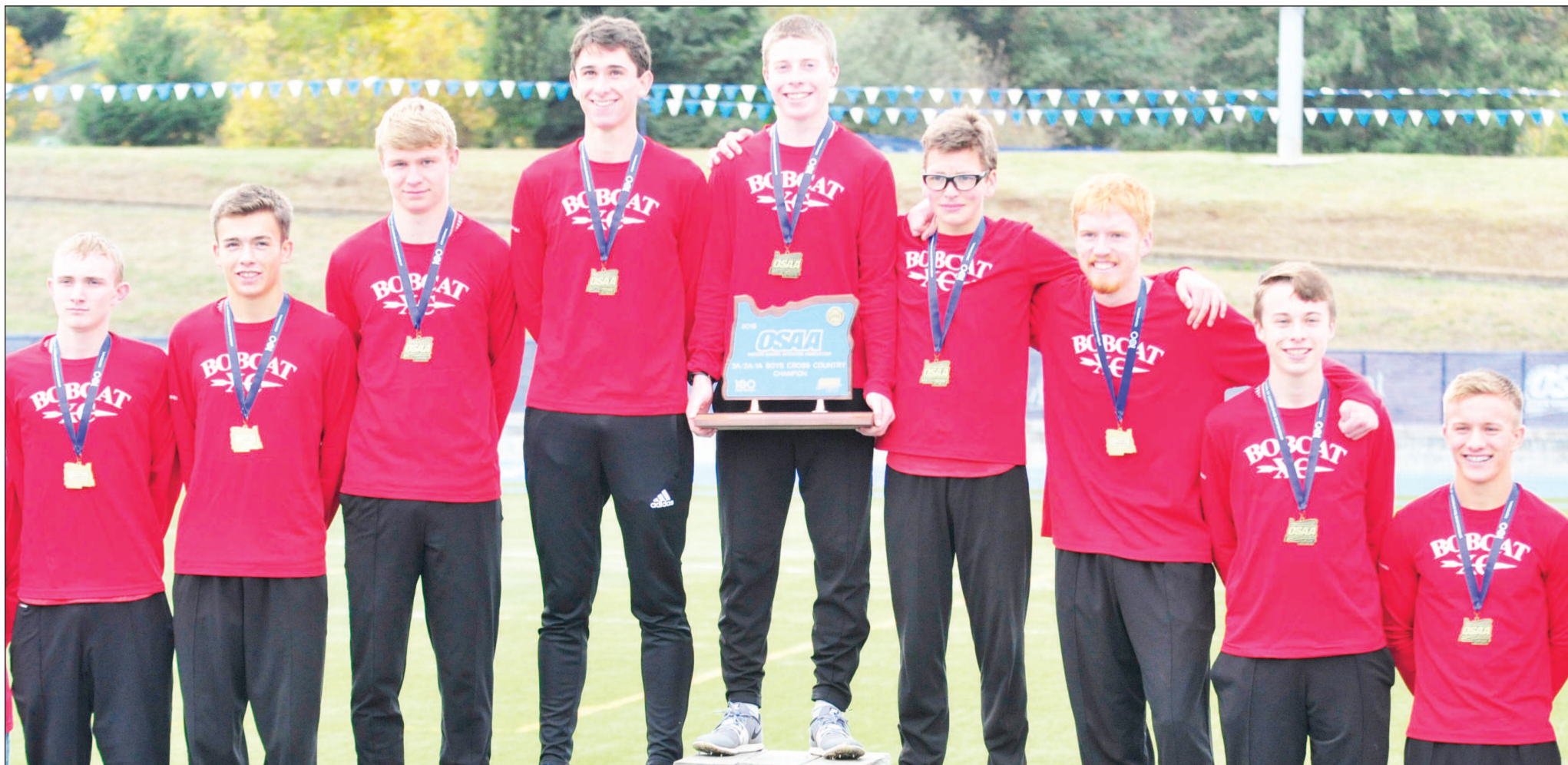


No. 20 for the Bobcats



John Gunther/Coos Bay World

The Union/Cove boys cross country team stands on the podium with the first-place trophy Saturday at Lane Community College in Eugene. It's the second straight year the Bobcats have won the boys championship, and is the 20th state title between the boys and girls in program history.

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

EUGENE — Winning a state championship is always memorable.

But Saturday's Class 2A/1A title was extra special for Union/Cove boys cross country Head Coach Steve Sheehy.

The championship was the 20th in program history — boys and girls combined — since the Bobcats' first state title 40 years ago.

That number breaks a tie between Union/Cove and 6A power Jesuit, both of which entered the day with 19 titles, the most in the

state, regardless of classification, according to Sheehy.

There are also deep connections for the Bobcats' coach. His brother, Jim, ran on the 1978 championship squad, placing fifth on the team. Saturday, Steve's son, Matthew Sheehy, ran for championship team

No. 20 and — you guessed it — placed fifth on the team.

And to tie it all together, the '78 team scored 44 points for a dominant win. The 2018 team scored — yes — 44 points for a dominant win. "This one's pretty special," said Steve Sheehy, who guided the

Bobcats to his 12th title as a coach.

Tim Stevens easily won his second state title in three seasons with a time of 15:33, more than 40 seconds ahead of runner-up Jedaiah Wasson from East Linn Christian. "I don't know what else you can

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Outlaws just miss state crown

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

EUGENE — Oh, how close the Enterprise Outlaws were to becoming cross country state champions.

A matter of seconds. Just a few points. Just a couple places.

And yet while they barely missed out, all signs point to a great future, especially for the boys program.

The Enterprise boys took second in the Class 3A boys meet Saturday at Lane Community College in Eugene, scoring 54 points, just two points behind Burns. The girls, likewise, were second in the 3A/2A/1A girls meet with 75 points, edged out by Catlin Gabel, which scored 71 points.

"The kids ran like they expected to," Enterprise Head Coach Dan Moody said. "(It) seems like they always rise to the occasion (at state). That's what we gear for. They stepped up really well."

The EHS boys were led by a trio of freshmen and paced by a 2-3 finish from Henry Coughlan (16:33) and Zac Knapp (16:49). Coughlan, in fact, was just two seconds behind the race winner, Emmett Klus of Burns.

"I'm happy," Coughlan said. "I was really hoping my team did well. We had three freshmen in the top 10."

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John Gunther/Coos Bay World

Enterprise runner Zac Knapp took third place at the Class 3A state meet Saturday. The Outlaw boys took second, missing first by two points.

Tigers come away fifth, ninth at state meet

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

EUGENE — The La Grande Tiger girls cross country team just missed out on a third-straight top-four trophy at the Class 4A girls state meet Saturday at Lane Community College in Eugene. The boys, meanwhile, got back in the top 10 after sending just one runner to state in 2017.

Abby Crews came in 14th overall to lead the LHS girls, who finished fifth with 145 points, just four points behind fourth-place Sisters. Marist claimed the state title with 70 points, edging Siuslaw, which had 73, and Tillamook, which scored 77.

"Overall they did the

best they could," Head Coach Alma Crow said.

Crews, the lone senior in the top five for La Grande, turned in a time of 20:13 to complete was Crow said was a solid prep career.

"She ran great. She has had a great season," Crow said. "She's stronger. She's more mature physically. It's sad that she's leaving. It's definitely not going to be the same without her. She ran strong and smart."

Two other Tigers cracked the top 35 overall, with Maia Vandervlugt (20:29) taking 21st and Audrey Garlitz (20:54) placing 31st.

Corbyn Sexton (21:43) was 43rd, and Jenna Ault (23:20) placed 69th to round

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Sam Stephens photo

Powder Valley's Bailey Cole returns a ball during the state tournament Friday in Redmond. The Badgers reached the state title match, where they lost to St. Paul.

Badgers fall in title match

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Class 1A state volleyball finals in Redmond came down to two unbeaten teams — the Powder Valley Badgers and St. Paul Buckaroos.

And although it was the Badgers who were denied a second state title, Head Coach Marji Lind was proud of her team's effort in one of the best seasons in program history.

"It's awesome to take second in state," Lind said. "It's a huge honor. The girls worked really hard for it and they're excited. Of course, you want to walk away with first, but not every team is going to be able to do that." Saturday's title match went to the Buckaroos in four sets, 25-16, 12-25, 25-6, 25-12, behind 21 kills from Isabelle Wyss and 19 by Erin Counts.

"They were tough. They're an excellent squad," Lind said. "They make very, very few

mistakes."

The teams traded points much of the first set, one Lind called "lights out volleyball." "It was outstanding volleyball to watch (no matter) which side you were for," she said.

A late 7-0 run, though, gave the set to the Buckaroos.

What followed was a second set Lind said was "magic." The Badgers put together a strong attack and an impenetrable defense to do something nobody in 1A had done all season — take a set from St. Paul. Powder Valley scored eight of the first nine points and never looked back.

"Everybody was firing on every single cylinder," Lind said. "It was like we couldn't do anything wrong. I don't know how many blocks (we had), but we just shut down their two big swingers. They could not get a ball across the net."

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